GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:176
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
SECURITY LAPSE AT MUMBAI AIRPORT
A.K. PREMAJAM;C. SREENIVAASAN;M.H. AMBAREESH;RAMSHETH THAKUR;SAMIK LAHIRI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Hijack bid exposes lax security` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated September 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it was a security lapse;

(d) whether similar cases of security lapse have been reported at Mumbai Airport since handing over the security to CISF;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the further steps being taken to tighten the security at Mumbai airport?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) Yes, Sir.
(b) On 9.9.2002, Air Seychelles flight HM 017 left MumbaiAirport at the scheduled time for Male and Seychelles. 30 minutes before approach of Male Airport, a passenger by name Shri Chandra Babu Sashi Raj threatened one of the airhostesses with a knife and wanted to enter the cockpit forcibly. He was overpowered by the crew of the aircrft and on arrival at Male Airport, he was handed over to the Male Authorities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d): On the day of the incident, both Mumbai Police and CISFwere on duty while CISF was on the job training.CISFhas taken over security duties with effect from 30.9.2002 and no security lapse has occured after CISF has taken over.

(e) to (g): The enquiry revealed that it was a fault on the part of Airport Security Unit which failed to detect the knife and that the incident could have been averted if secondary/ladder point checking was carried out. To further tighten security BCAS has reiterated instructions regarding secondary ladder point checks to all airlines.